

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for securing an auxiliary device to a tracheostomy tube, the apparatus comprising:

a ring having a pair of opposed extensions defining strap holds, and further having a pair of secondary strap holds;

a void within the ring configured to allow passage of a tracheostomy tube through the ring;

a pair of auxiliary device straps affixed to each of the secondary strap holds, the auxiliary straps configured so that, when the tracheostomy tube extends through the ring void, the auxiliary straps extend around an auxiliary device that is fit onto the tracheostomy tube so as to maintain a maximum spatial relationship between the auxiliary device and the ring.

2. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the auxiliary device straps are configured with fastening elements to releasably secure the auxiliary device straps together.

3. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the fastening elements comprise hook and loop fasteners.

4. The apparatus of Claim 1, in further combination with a tracheostomy collar having a neck strap and wherein the ring is secured to the tracheostomy collar by the neck strap.

5. The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein the neck strap connects to the tracheostomy collar and the ring strap holds.

6. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the ring has a major axis extending between the strap holds and a minor axis extending between the secondary strap holds, and the major axis is greater than the minor axis.

7. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the strap holds are spaced farther apart than the secondary strap holds.

8. A method of securing an auxiliary device to a flanged tracheostomy tube, comprising the steps of:

providing a flanged tracheostomy tube;

providing an auxiliary device;

providing a tracheostomy collar having a neck strap;

providing a retainer configured to fit over the tracheostomy tube, the retainer having a retainer strap configured for releasable engagement with the auxiliary device, and further having two or more strap holds configured to receive the neck strap;

fitting the retainer over the tracheostomy tube;

securing the neck strap to the flanged tracheostomy tube and to the retainer thereby securing the retainer to the tracheostomy tube;

engaging the auxiliary device with the tracheostomy tube; and

securing the retainer to the auxiliary device with the retainer strap.

9. The method of Claim 8, wherein the neck strap passes through slots on the tracheostomy tube and also passes through the strap holds on the retainer.

10. The method of Claim 8, wherein the securing the retainer to the auxiliary device step comprises fastening a pair of retainer straps having a hook and loop fastening closure around the auxiliary device.

11. The method of Claim 8, wherein the neck strap connects to both the tracheostomy tube and the strap holds.